

BOARD OF FUNERAL DIRECTORS/EMBALMERS

MINUTES OF MEETING

January 10, 2011

Open Session

The Open Session of the Board of Funeral Directors / Embalmers was called to order at 1:00 pm on the above date in Room 104, Cannon Building, Rhode Island Department of Health, Three Capitol Hill, Providence, Rhode Island, pursuant to the applicable provisions of the Open Meeting Law, so called, and other applicable provisions of the General Laws of the State of Rhode Island, as amended. A quorum was established.

Board Members in attendance:

Edward Murphy

Joan Retsinas

Raymond Butterfield, III

Mary Bray

Elizabeth Feid

Board Members not in attendance:

Staff members in attendance:

J. Michel Martineau

William Dundulis

Chairman Murphy opened the Meeting noting we have a quorum.

Adjournment to Executive Session

On motion of Raymond Butterfield, seconded by Joan Retsinas, it was unanimously voted to adjourn to Executive Session pursuant to sections 42-46-4 and 42-46-5(1) of the Rhode Island General Laws, as Amended, in that confidential issues of fitness for licensure and investigative cases will be discussed. The Open Session adjourned at 1:05 pm.

Return to Open Session

The Open Session was called back to order at 1:20 pm. On motion of Edward Murphy, seconded by Raymond Butterfield, it was unanimously voted to keep confidential all matters discussed in Closed Session and to seal those minutes inasmuch as fitness for licensure and ongoing disciplinary matters were addressed.

As planned, the Board continues its review of the proposal by Craig Carpenter. Attendees representing White Dove Crematory include: Craig Carpenter, Sandra Matrone Mack, Chris Carpenter and Stephen Carpenter. Attendees representing MedCure, Inc. include, Janis Locenieks, Jeff Chase-Lufetz, Esq., David Urbona and Erik Pando. Bill Dundulis of RIDOH, Manager of Regulations also attended. Dr. Cox of the Office of the Medical Director (ME) was invited. ME staff advised me Dr. Cox could not attend and they would try to have

another staff doctor attend, no representative of the ME was able to attend. Mark Russell who has a business relationship with Brown Medical School as it pertains to the full body donation program was invited to attend this meeting. Mark was unable to attend due to being out of state, he supplied his comments in writing, and they were shared.

A Board Member and Craig Carpenter note the ME has had different documentation requirements over the years. The Board will communicate with the ME, specifically as it concerns to the current practice with Mark Russell and inquire if the proposal by Craig Carpenter is best addressed in the same manner or differently.

A Member notes that Mark Russell is involved in a practice that is not for profit, while MedCure is conducting a for profit business.

Some Members note they respect the need for this request and state they need to review and move cautiously guided by their concern of potential unanticipated consequences that may result from a less than well planned out approach.

Bill Dundulis indicates if the Board determines to propose an amendment to the regs, his preliminary review suggests Section 18.0 including Practice of Cremation may be the suitable area to amend. He further advises all parties understand that eight months is a reasonable estimate of the time required to implement the changes.

Bill further notes there are two “housekeeping” matters which should be addressed as they include changes already made to the law, but not yet represented in the regs.

Adjournment to Executive Session

On motion of Edward Murphy, seconded by Raymond Butterfield, it was unanimously voted to adjourn to Executive Session pursuant to sections 42-46-4 and 42-46-5(1) of the Rhode Island General Laws, as Amended, in that confidential issues of fitness for licensure and investigative cases will be discussed. The Open Session adjourned at 2:05 pm.

Return to Open Session

The Open Session was called back to order at 3:25 pm. On motion of Edward Murphy, seconded by Raymond Butterfield, it was unanimously voted to keep confidential all matters discussed in Closed Session and to seal those minutes inasmuch as fitness for licensure and ongoing disciplinary matters were addressed.

FD/EMB C09-089 Complaint Dismissed

FD/EMB C10-627 Complaint Dismissed

The minutes of the open session held on December 6, 2010 were presented. On motion by Raymond Butterfield, seconded by Edward Murphy, it was unanimously voted to accept the minutes. The minutes of the closed session held on December 6, 2010 were

presented. On motion by Raymond Butterfield, seconded by Joan Retsinas, it was unanimously voted to accept the minutes.

Adjournment

Having no further business, on motion of Elizabeth Feid, seconded by Edward Murphy, it was unanimously voted to adjourn. The Open Session of the meeting was adjourned at 3:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

J. Michel Martineau

Health Policy Analyst